



REMEMBER THE MAGIC OF CHRISTMAS!

Imagine a life without Christmas. December 25 would just be another dreary winter day—a tiresome work commute; a monotonous day at school.

Without Christmas, we wouldn't have any Black Friday blow-out bargains. No Salvation Army bell-ringers to fill the charity coffers. No Rudolph or Frosty or Charlie Brown's pitiful little tree.

If there were no Christmas, a white-bearded man in a red velvet suit and matching hat on the street corner would be met with raised eyebrows instead of delighted smiles. If Santa wasn't watching, what motivation would children have to be good?

There wouldn't be wondrous Christmas trees with piles of gifts to shake and rattle and contemplate its contents. There wouldn't be ugly sweater contests (which could be a good thing) or your aunt's yearly fruitcake in a tin on the counter. Untouched.

What would it be like without a month of Christmas cheer? Or family and friends gathering in laughter and love, passing out extra hugs.

And if there were no Christmas, where would we get our most treasured memories? The sights, the sounds, the colors, the smells—everything takes you to Christmas past! One whiff of pine and I'm back in my childhood home—my dad struggling to get a never-quite-perfect tree in full upright position; my mom instructing him to turn it just one more time because maybe it's a bit fuller on the other side.

As I unearth my old homemade stocking, I can almost feel my brother shaking me awake in the pre-dawn darkness to sneak into the living room. Every single year, we would empty our stockings all the way to the toe and then quietly reload them and sneak back to bed so Mom and Dad would never be the wiser. But of course, they knew, because they, too, were once children.

Christmas can be a magical time. Some are giddy for the season; for others, it brings heartache. In joy or in pain, whatever your circumstance, I would ask you to pause and remember that the real magic of Christmas isn't really magic at all. It was a baby boy, born long ago to a young virgin. Sent from God as a gift for everyone, this is the Christ-Child—Jesus, who came to bring us forgiveness and a changed life. In this season, remember Him. Remember the Light of Heaven that came to bring us hope and peace in a world that we sometimes can't understand. Remember that *Christ* is the reason for *Christmas*!

Blessings to you and yours from MasterThink

Jim, Michelle, Sarah, Kate, Tori and Dania

